

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Cold Case Initiative Program; creating s. 943.0412, F.S.; establishing the program within the Department of Law Enforcement; providing the purpose of the program; defining the term "cold case"; requiring the department to develop a database of cold cases; providing requirements for the database; providing for a public website that includes specified information; requiring a law enforcement agency to provide a list of cold cases; requiring the department to coordinate with law enforcement agencies; requiring the department to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 943.0412, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

943.0412 Cold Case Initiative Program.—There is created the Cold Case Initiative Program within the department. The purpose of the program is to provide additional insight and new approaches to previous investigative problems and to provide the opportunity to apply modern investigative strategies in order to reinvestigate violent crimes that are unsolved.

(1) As used in this section, the term "cold case" means a case involving a missing person, unidentified remains, or a

27 violent crime, including, but not limited to, a homicide or a  
28 sexual battery, which has not been solved for at least 3 years  
29 after commission of the crime.

30 (2) The department shall develop a database of cold cases  
31 which includes a secure, private database accessible to state  
32 and local law enforcement agencies within the state only, as  
33 well as a public website that includes limited information such  
34 as a victim's photo, if available, and the victim's race,  
35 gender, height, weight, hair color, eye color, and date of birth  
36 and a brief description and date of the crime. Each law  
37 enforcement agency in the state shall provide the department  
38 with a list of cold cases to be included in the cold case  
39 database and annual updates on resolved cold cases and any  
40 additional eligible cold cases to be added to the database. The  
41 law enforcement agency shall maintain the physical evidence and  
42 investigation file for each cold case unless otherwise agreed by  
43 the agency and the department.

44 (3) The department shall coordinate with the law  
45 enforcement agency that has primary jurisdiction over each cold  
46 case to select, review, and reinvestigate such cold cases.

47 (4) The department shall adopt rules to administer this  
48 section.

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.